

The President's Daily Brief

24 April 1969

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~~Top Secret~~ 50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

25 April 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
24 APRIL 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

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[REDACTED]

The Israelis say they killed six members of an Egyptian
commando party this morning as it was trying to land on the
east bank of the Suez Canal. [REDACTED]

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Lebanese Premier Karame announced his resignation yes-
terday during a parliamentary debate in which he was criti-
cized for his part in the suppression of pro-fedayeen demon-
strators. If his resignation is accepted, there are unlikely
to be any volunteers for his job and the crisis could be a
long one. [REDACTED]

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

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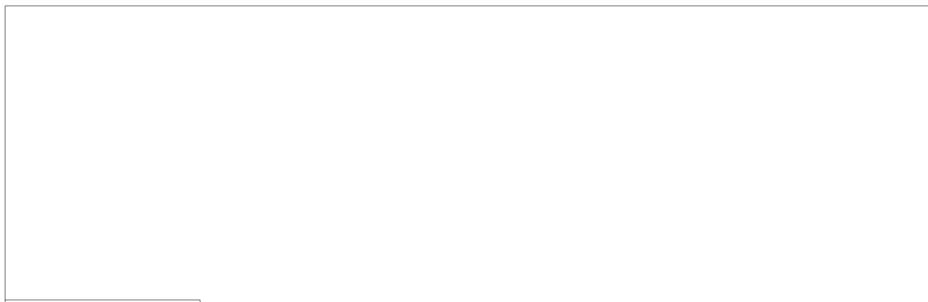
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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

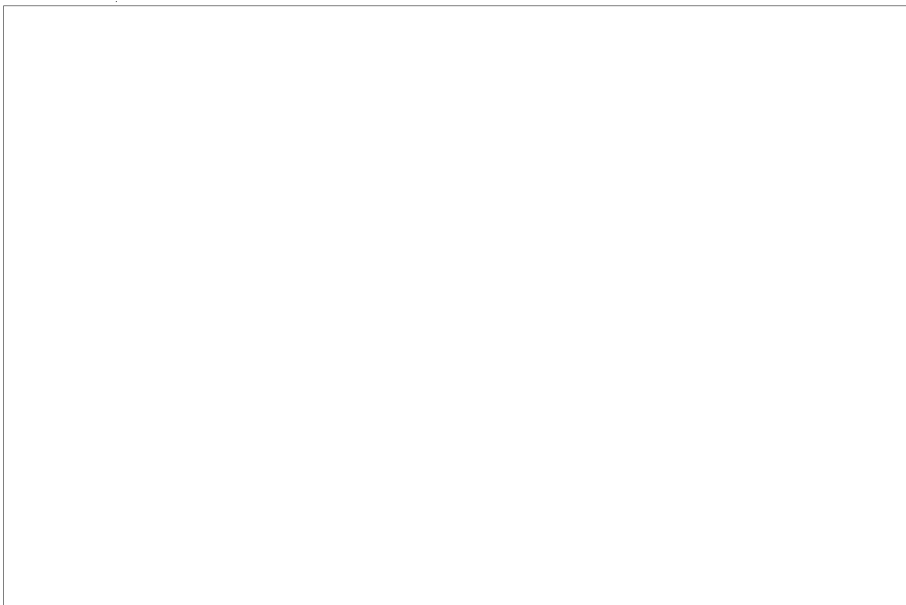
Despite Saigon's desire to improve its relations with Paris, the South Vietnamese have their guard up against French attempts to inject their views into the Paris talks. The South Vietnamese regard the French as more sympathetic toward Hanoi than toward Saigon; a surprisingly heavy-handed demarche by the French consul general in Saigon has sharpened their suspicions.



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[REDACTED] Hanoi is often
fed grossly misleading reports on US casualties. These false
reports may well contribute to Hanoi's view that time is on
its side in the negotiations.

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According to a captured enemy post-action report, Com-
munist forces killed 47 US troops in a recent engagement. In
fact, there were no US deaths in that action. [REDACTED]

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The Communist leaders are most reluctant to admit that
the allied situation may be significantly better than their
reporting pictures it. [REDACTED]

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MIDDLE EAST

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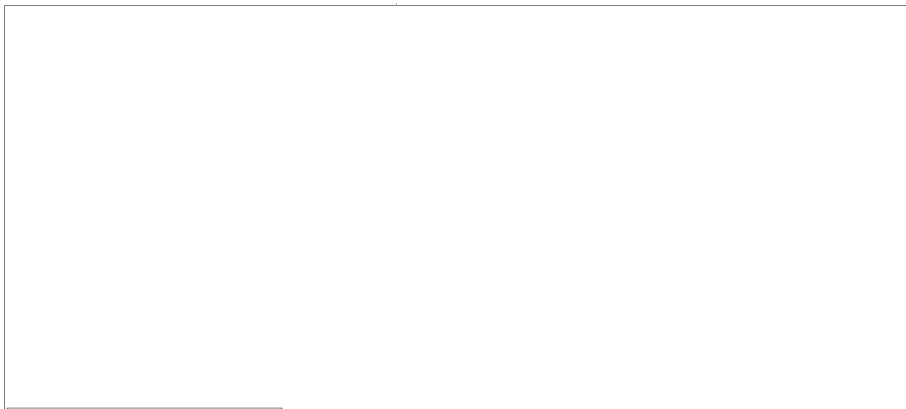
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Fighting between Lebanese security forces and pro-fedayeen demonstrators broke out again today. The number of people killed now stands at 12 and the number injured at almost 80.

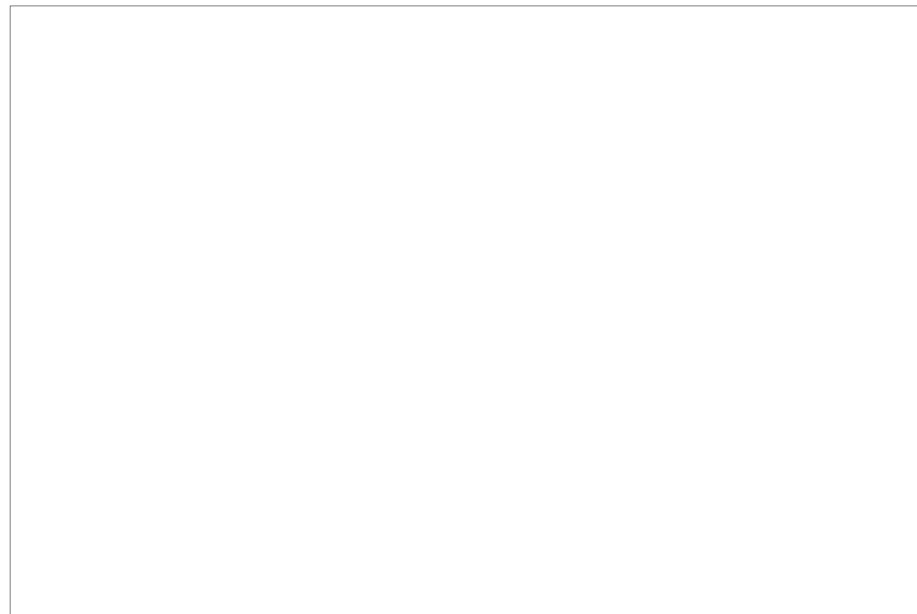
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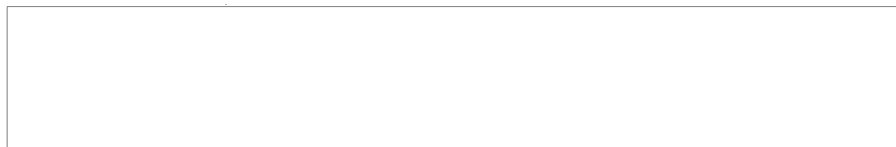
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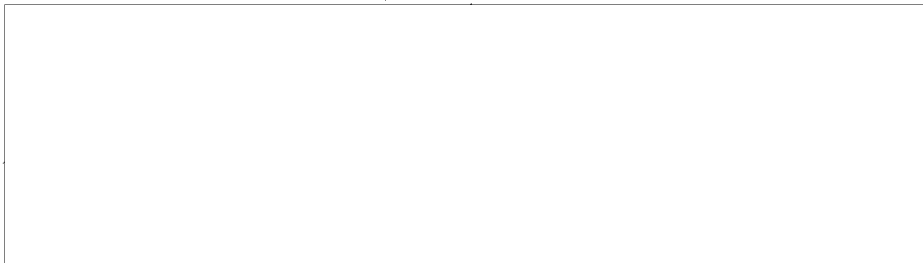
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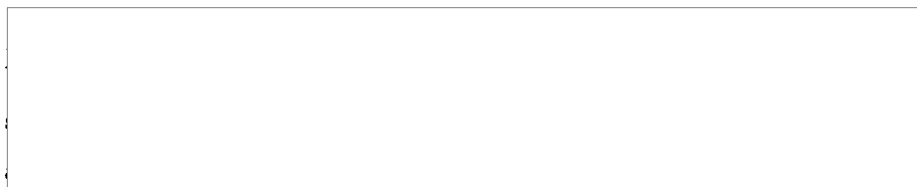
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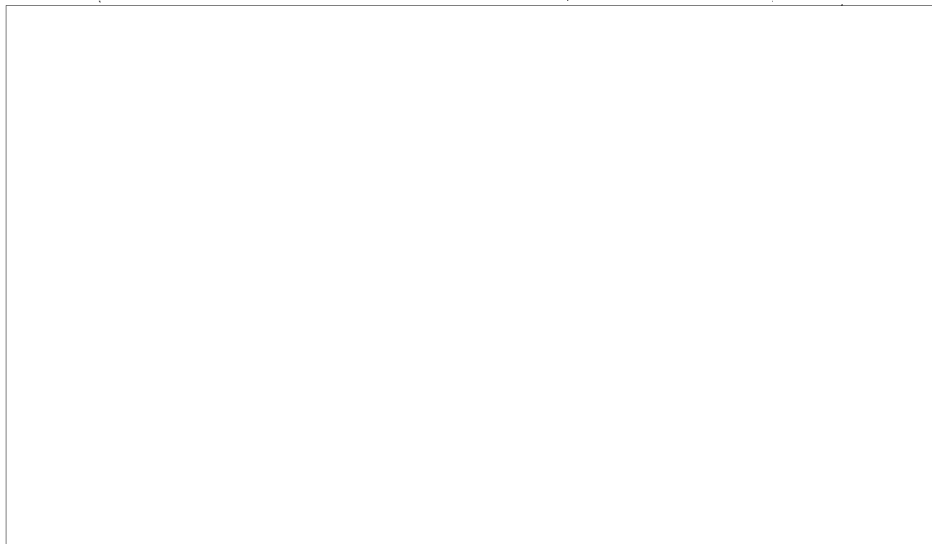


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EUROPE



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SOVIET AFFAIRS

There is nothing significant to report.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

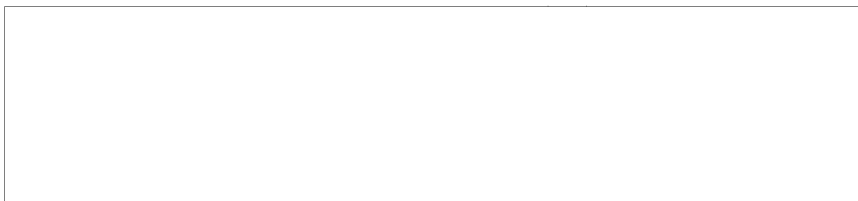
THAILAND-CAMBODIA

Thailand's foreign minister has welcomed a Cambodian initiative to hold formal discussions on re-establishing diplomatic relations. Although over the years there have been a number of false starts, this time substantive hurdles seem minimal, and Sihanouk--in line with his current effort to widen his diplomatic options--appears more forthcoming. There are still some personal animosities that will have to be smoothed over before a rapprochement can take place.

COMMUNIST CHINA

Initial accounts of the 9th Party Congress, which adjourned today, are bland and uninformative. The new central committee has 279 full and alternate members, compared with 170 in the last one formed in 1956. The 24 people named as appearing at the final session have been heading leadership turnouts in Peking for months. Chairman Mao, his designated successor Lin Piao, and Premier Chou En-lai were present in their usual order.

GREECE



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